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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RARE BOOK DEPARTMENT
1937 - 1938

The most important single event of the year was the EXHIBITION OF BOOKS, MANUSCRIPTS AND ORIGINAL DRAWINGS CHIEFLY OF THE 19th CENTURY from the Library of GEORGE ARENTS, which was formally opened on Friday afternoon, January 14, 1938 by the President of the University. Sir Herbert Grierson, Lord Rector of Edinburgh University, gave an address in which he presented brief sketches of the literary personalities represented in the exhibition, and emphasized the items of unusual interest and rarity.

The value of the exhibition, one can perhaps say, was chiefly in the harmonious balance of literary and artistic interest in the material displayed. Mr. Arents' idea of collecting books in parts, conceived some years ago when he felt that he had nearly exhausted the field of tobacco books, has proved surprisingly productive. It shows a little known and original aspect of Anglo-American literature and provides a vivid picture of the ways in which Victorian literature reached its public. The source value of the collection is further enhanced by the many beautiful original drawings and sketches of the best illustrators of the period, affording unusual opportunities for comparison with the finished products in print.

It was the privilege of the RARE BOOK Department to secure for the University Library the first opportunity of ~~publicly~~ publicly showing these treasures, which were completely unknown to the world of collectors and literary students. The reception of the exhibition in the press was gratifying.

GIFTS:

There were as usual many book, pamphlets and periodicals given by Mr. Epstean to round out the collection which bears his name. Also, a sum of one hundred dollars was given by him to enable the department to purchase, with his approval, photographic books offered or recommended to the library in addition to those given by him directly.

Mr. Bühler of the Morgan Library gave a group of reprints of his scholarly articles in the fields of early printing and book illustration.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerlach completed this year the binding of a visitor's book of the 1935 Exhibition of Modern Bookbinding, held in Low Memorial Library. This binding, ~~[illegible]~~ finely

D. „EUROPA" .....

Norddeutscher Lloyd
Bremen

designed by the Gerlachs and executed by them in full ~~leather~~ leather, was given by them as an addition to the collection of examples of fine binding.

In connection with Dr. Lehmann - Haupt's course in children illustration, Miss Ann Bowman, W. P. A. Supervisor, donated a most interesting collection of childrens books inexpensively produced as a W. P. A. project. Also, Frances M. Foster, of Edward Stern & Company, donated a number of the volumes known as the "Picture Scripts," another inexpensive series of children's books planned by Teachers' College.

The Harbor Press of New York this year joined the Marchbanks Press, also of New York. I was able to secure, at the time of the moving, from Mr. Roland H. Wood, the President, an extensive collection of job printing, done by the Harbor Press during a number of years in New York. The library collection of such "Ephemeral Printing" now contains representative examples from the Laboratory Press of the Carnegie Institute of Technology; the Merrymount Press, Boston; the Spiral Press of New York; the Marchbanks Press of New York; and, now, the Harbor Press. A single item from any of these groups may seem of slight interest. In their accumulation, however, these materials will prove increasingly ~~and~~ valuable and useful from many points of view.

AN INTERESTING PURCHASE:

Early in the year the curator of the department was offered a collection of early moveable type cast in metal and wooden type in Korea. The university collections on far eastern books and printing could obviously make excellent use of such a rare opportunity. An effort was made to raise the funds necessary for the purchase of the entire material by subscriptions from the budgets of various university departments and from private donations. This plan did not materialize. However, the Institute of Japanese Studies set aside one hundred dollars to offer to the widow of Dr. Gale from whom the offer had come, for one-tenth of the collection of metal and wooden printing type. This offer was accepted by Mrs. Gale and the Universities' museum material has thus been increased by original examples of the earliest known metal type in the world.

CATALOGING:

New books cataloged	717	
Books recataloged	169	
Books reclassed	133	
Volume of pamphlets	7	(188 titles)
Analytics	727	

We had two particular goals in mind in the cataloging work done this past year. One, we wanted to finish the final cataloging for the Library of the Epstean Collection, and as nearly as possible have the entire Epstean Library classed, cataloged, bound and on the shelves by the end of the year. All of the books have been cataloged and the last lot of Epstean binding was sent in June and has been returned.

The other thing we had particularly in mind was to clear out and finish up certain books added to the department by transfer or purchase, which presented special problems in classification or cataloging. We have finished the job, with the exception of some of the paleographical material, and some other special material which ~~sti~~ still remains a problem in classification.

We have this past year, caught up with the current cataloging, and have, of course, cataloged most of the new books as they arrived.

SELIGMAN LIBRARY:

The Seligman Library has this past year been housed in Room 306 in Low Library. As this is a stack room it has necessitated administering the room from the Rare Book Department Reading Room, in 205. Although this arrangement was not ideal, we were able, with the help of the staff of the Rare Book Department, to give good service to the Seligman readers, and to minimize as far as possible the inconvenience and inadequacies of the arrangement.

Dr. Seligman, has, as usual been adding to the library during the past year, mostly in the field of the financial history of the French Revolution.

STAFF:

We had a rapid turnover in staff during the past year. Miss Helen Corbett, for two years secretary to the Curator and to the Rare Book Department in general, resigned to take a position at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie. We were sorry to lose Miss Corbett, who was an attractive, pleasant person as well as an intelligent, efficient secretary. She was replaced bz Miss Anna Cushing who has worked most faithfully all year.

Mr. Samuel A. Ives was transferred from the Rare Book Department to the Plimpton Library. Mr. Ives had been with us two years, and had been most valuable in his particular field. He had completely recataloged all the incunabula in the University Library and had worked on the cataloging of manuscripts, and had helped to check the manuscripts in Columbia for the De Ricci catalog.

Our student assistant help ~~assistant help~~ during the past year was particularly satisfactory. Mr. Charles E. Tuttle, Jr., of Rutland, Vermont came to us in September as a full-time assistant in the Rare Book Department. His excellent cultural and social background, his pleasant personality and ability to get on with readers and staff alike, and his knowledge of rare books, and particularly Americana, from a booksellers' point of view, proved most valuable to the library. Our other student assistants during the year were Mr. Ruthiford Rogers and Mr. Byron Hopkins. Both young men were entirely satisfactory and should be a credit to the library school and the profession they have chosen.

Our arrangement for pages during the past year has been very satisfactory. With two half-time pages we have been able to cover adequately the work in our own department, and also to take care of trips to South Hall for Columbiana and East Asiatics, and in general to furnish as much page service to and from South Hall as possible.

A ~~During~~ word of particular appreciation is due to Miss Janet Bogardus who has proved an increasingly valuable member of the Library Staff. Much of the technical administration of the department was handled by her in a responsible and effective manner. In 1934 when we moved to the old library building we came with our own Book Arts and Industries Collection, the Seligman Library of Economics, the Smith Library of Mathematics, and the Dale Library of Weights and Measures, as well as the smaller collections on Joan of Arc, Mary Queen of Scots, and the collection of gift books and annuals from the main library. In addition we were given the administration of the vault and manuscript collection, the Holland Collection, and the Johnson Library. As these various collections were housed on four floors and had been variously administered and cared for it became our duty to so organize and coordinate the collections that they could be administered with a maximum of service at a minimum of effort and with a small staff. In working out arrangements which proved increasingly practical and efficient, Miss Bogardus deserves much credit.

Mr. Tuttle in addition to his routine duties in the department made himself particularly useful in preparing orders for the Accessions Department. We have spent the annual appropriation of one thousand dollars in keeping up to date the Book Arts reference collection in the usual manner and in making a few carefully considered additions to the collection of examples. He has also prepared a considerable number of order cards which have carefully been checked against the library holdings but have not been sent out because of lack of funds. I have told Mr. Adams that these records are at his disposal as soon as he wishes to make use of them.

VISITS:

The use of the various collections by members of the Columbia faculty who wish to acquaint their students with original source material under expert guidance showed a marked increase during the past year. Several new faculty members brought student groups, and some came repeatedly.

Other organized visits to the collections of the department were undertaken by the American Institue of Graphic Arts, the Science and Technology group of the Special Libraries Association's New York Chapter, and some fifty students from the Albany State College.

EXTRA - MURAL ACTIVITIES:

As chairman of the New York Library Club's Art Committee Mr. Lehmann-Haupt conducted a symposium on Bookbinding on November 8, 1938. Also, he was guest speaker at the opening of a new typographic library in New York City, the Charles Francis Memorial Library of the New York School of Printing. On two occasion he had an opportunity to analyze the current motion picture, "Snow White" in relation to the older book illustrations and the early attempts at animated drawings in printing and in manuscripts.

Miss Janet Bogardus contributed a bibliography of Women in Printing for a volume "Printing on the Distaff Side", issued by the American Institue of Graphic Arts. Also during the period covered by this report the Number Three of "The Dolphin" appeared. This volume is a history of the printed book composed of articles by

authorities on the various aspects of the subject. During the early formulation of plans for this work, Mr. Lehmann-Haupt had an opportunity to advise the publisher with a view of making the volume useful as a textbook in university instruction work. He also contributed an article on "The Heritage of the Manuscript" to this volume.

Respectfully submitted

Hellmut Lehmann-Haupt.

H. Lehmann-Haupt

On board S!S. Europa, August 17, 1938